

## History

The Vankleek Hill Gun Club was founded in the spring of 1964 and obtained official recognition in the form of a "letter of approval" in August 25, 1964 from the Attorney General of Ontario through the Commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police.

Between 1964 and 1971 club activities were restricted to shooting for enjoyment on a more or less regular basis, there were a number of dormant periods during which little was known about the club.

Nevertheless, it persisted, although during that period the membership seldom, if ever exceeded twenty. Of the ten or twelve men who originally founded the club, only Mr. Lucien Paquette remains with us today.

During the summer of 1971, a group of the Ontario Provincial Police Officers along with a number of Vankleek Hill residents met in Room 41 of the Vankleek Hill High School with a view to obtain official recognition.

From 1971 to 1976 activities increased rapidly and the organization thrived. However 1976 was to bring a serious crisis for the members and other citizens, whose right to own firearms, was perilously jeopardized by the Liberal Government's Bill C-83. Mr. Denis Ethier, the local Liberal representative, was invited to meet with the members and hear their views against his government policy. A sizeable campaign was launched in the local media as well as in nation-wide publication directed to gun owners in an effort to impede what in the club's view seemed a significant encroachment on civil liberties.

On January 15, 1980 the club received its charter from the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations who designated it as a non-profit corporation.

Over the period of thirty-seven years the Vankleek Hill Gun Club numbered approximately one thousand members who have come and gone to this date, it's safety record has never been blemished by any accident of any description despite the hundreds of thousands of rounds discharged from pistols, rifles and shotguns.